

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 16 November 2015

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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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**53<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 15-18 June 2015**

***Council of Europe – Agora building  
Room G04***

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**MEETING REPORT**

**Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities held its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting from 15 to 18 June 2015 in Strasbourg. Mr Francesco Palermo, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the Committee. He also informed the Committee of the absence of Ms Carmen SANTIAGO REYES, who had sent her apologies.

**Item 2: Adoption of the agenda**

2. The agenda, as reproduced in Appendix II, was adopted.

**Item 3: Approval of the report of the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee**

3. Having examined the report of its 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Advisory Committee adopted the final text of the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2015)001.

**Item 4: Examination of draft Opinions and their adoption**

4. The Committee examined the draft 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle Opinion on Georgia. During the plenary session on 17 June 2015, it decided, in the light of the final version of the draft Opinion on Georgia, to vote on the text.

5. The voting was organised in accordance with Rule 34 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, stipulating that Opinions should be adopted by a majority of ordinary Committee members, as well as with Rule 34 of Resolution (97) 10, to the effect that "Additional members shall sit in an advisory capacity; they shall not have the right to take part in a possible vote. The same shall apply to ordinary members regarding the report of the Party in respect of which they have been elected to the List".

6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle Opinion on Georgia was adopted unanimously.

7. The Committee examined the draft 4<sup>th</sup> cycle Opinion on the Czech Republic. During the plenary session on 18 June 2015, it decided to instruct the working group on the Czech Republic to revise the text taking into consideration the various comments received and discussions held during the plenary, in view of the adoption of this Opinion, without further debate, during its next plenary session in the week of 16 November 2015.

**Item 5: Exchange of views with the Head of Secretariat of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

8. The Head of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination, Elise Cornu, thanked the Advisory Committee for inviting her to present the activities of her Committee and in particular the role of the Sub-committee with respect to the rights of minorities. She expressed her appreciation for the excellent work of the Advisory Committee and pointed out that its Opinions are often used by the parliamentarians to prepare their reports on minority issues. She expressed the wish of developing a closer cooperation with the Advisory Committee on topics of mutual interest related to broader minority protection concerns in Europe.

9. The Advisory Committee expressed its satisfaction with this proposal and underlined the usefulness of such cooperation with the PACE in future.

## **Item 6: Thematic commentary on the personal scope of application of the FCNM**

The plenary discussed the revised outline and draft text and principally agreed with its amended structure. It was agreed to prepare a more advanced draft over the summer which will then be shared with a circle of close partners who had already been involved in previous discussions. Their comments and remarks will be incorporated into a revised and completed draft, to be discussed by the plenary during its 54<sup>th</sup> session in November 2015. It was also agreed, as has been the practice with previous commentaries, to conduct external consultations with international partner organisations, selected academics and civil society representatives prior to the adoption of the Fourth Commentary in May 2016.

## **Item 7: Recent and future developments**

10. The Advisory Committee was briefed about recent developments and upcoming events, as well as the forthcoming fourth-cycle country visit to Italy from 29 June to 3 July 2015 and the fourth-cycle country visit to Croatia from 13 to 17 July 2015, for discussion of the draft Opinions during the 54<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Advisory Committee.

11. The Advisory Committee discussed the proposal to organise a one-day conference on minority rights related issues in Sarajevo on 15 October 2015 in the framework of the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

12. The Advisory Committee took note of the preliminary proposal for the composition of the Advisory Committee's country working groups for visits to be organised until May 2016.

13. It also confirmed that the following deadlines have to be respected concerning the transmission of drafts opinions: three weeks (four week-ends) to the working groups and one week (two week-ends) to all members, before the plenary session.

## **Item 8: Dates of next meetings**

14. The dates for the following meetings were confirmed as follows:

- 54<sup>th</sup> plenary session: 16-20 November 2015
- 55<sup>th</sup> plenary session: 22-26 February 2016
- 56<sup>th</sup> plenary session: 23-27 May 2016

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention  
for the Protection of National Minorities**

Mr Francesco PALERMO (Italy) – *President*

Ms Petra ROTER (Slovenia) - *First Vice-President*

Ms Ms Ivana JELIĆ (Montenegro) - *Second Vice-President*

Mr Eero J. AARNIO (Finland)

Mr Reinis ĀBOLTIŅŠ (Latvia)

Ms Arzu AGHDASI-SISAN (Azerbaijan)

Mr Neven ANĐELIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Mr Grigor BADIRYAN (Armenia)

Ms Brigitta BUSCH (Austria)

Mr Yiannis CHRYSOSTOMIS (Cyprus)

Emilia DRUMEVA (Bulgaria)

Ms Helena HOFMANNOVÁ (Czech Republic)

Mr Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)

Ms Tove H. MALLOY (Denmark)

Ms Tatjana MURAVJOVA (Estonia)

Mr Craig OLIPHANT (United Kingdom)

Mr Valery OVCHINNIKOV (Russian Federation)

Ms Carmen SANTIAGO REYES (excused)

**Advisory Committee's additional member**

Mr Besarion BOKHASHVILI (Georgia)

**Council of Europe**

Ms Elise CORNU, Head of Secretariat, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Sarah BURTON, Administrator, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Maria OCHOA-LLIDO, Head of Anti-discrimination and Social Cohesion Department

**Secretariat**

Ms Michèle AKIP, Head of Secretariat

Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN, Administrator

Ms Charlotte ALTENHÖNER-DION, Administrator

Ms Danijela GERDIJAN, Assistant

Mr Anthony ISKENDERIAN, Assistant

Ms Katharina FOUQUET, Assistant

**Interpreters**

Ms Marilyne NEUSCHWANDER (15 + 18-19/06)

Ms Sara WEBSTER

Mr Derrick WORSDALE (15 + 17/06)

Ms Katia DI STEFANO

## **ANNEX II**

### **ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of the meeting report of the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee

Examination of individual state reports and drafting of opinions, including in country-specific working groups

Exchange of views with the Head of Secretariat of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Thematic commentary on the personal scope of application of the FCNM

Recent and future developments

Dates of next meetings